

'Great Game' case files

The following case files are subsumed within London's "Great Game," and should be reopened for investigation.

Anglo-American support of Afghan war versus Soviet Union

Soviet tanks rolled into Afghanistan and took control of Kabul on Christmas eve in 1979. Intelligence operatives located in the inner circle around the British monarchy seized the opportunity to create the Anglo-American command and support structure for the mujahideen, especially in the United States.

From Britain, two organizations sprang into being to serve as the command center for foreign support for an Afghan guerrilla and mercenary war against Moscow. The first was AfghanAid U.K., which was established in Peshawar, Pakistan, near the Afghan border. The primary sponsor and funder of this organization, which funneled millions to the Afghan mujahideen, was Viscount Cranborne, the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords.

The second was Radio Kabul, founded in the early weeks of 1980 by Lord Nicholas Bethell, a former lord-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth II. Radio Kabul was run out of Coutts and Co., the queen's private banker.

Stateside, in 1980, John Train, a Wall Street investment banker for the fortunes of such families as the Mellons, became founder and president of the Afghanistan Relief Committee (ARC), and, according to the *Washington Post*, the Committee's "financial whiz." The ARC particularly directed funds to drug lord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in Afghanistan. Personnel of ARC overlapped with Freedom House

Case file: Karl Marx

Karl Marx, the founder of the communist movement that seized hold of Russia in April 1917, was an anti-Russian asset of Lord Palmerston's "Great Game" to bust up the alliance of the Russian, Prussian, and Austrian empires, and to dismember the Ottoman Empire. Marx played his role as an anti-Russian crusader on behalf of Palmerston through the mediation of David Urquhart, who had instigated the first uprisings of the Circassian tribes against Russia during the 1830s.

After the 1848 revolution in Germany, Marx fled to Britain, where he remained until his death in 1883. He came under the tutelage of Urquhart. Marx in part earned his living writing for Urquhart's *Portfolio*.

Urquhart was a protégé of the founder of British intelligence, Jeremy Bentham, who directed British subversion of the American Revolution. In his letters, Bentham fondly referred to Urquhart as "our David."

Urquhart steered Marx into an anti-Russian crusade, which targeted Lord Palmerston himself, as a cover for Urquhart's interest in "working-class organizing" and for Palmerston's own war against Russia. Urquhart was the mentor behind Marx's own *Life of Lord Palmerston*.

Urquhart also steered the direction of Marx's *Capital*, and the notion that technological progress causes a falling rate of profit. Urquhart's own ideas on economics were premised on aristocratic nostalgia for feudalism. He wrote that "the people of England were better clothed and fed when there was no commerce and when there were no factories."

As Marx's contemporary and biographer, John Spargo, emphasized:

"Marx gladly cooperated with David Urquhart and his followers in their anti-Russian campaign, for he regarded Russia as the leading reactionary Power in the world, and never lost an opportunity of expressing his hatred of it. In David Urquhart he found a kindred soul to whom he became greatly attached. . . . The influence which David Urquhart obtained over Marx was remarkable. Marx probably never relied upon the judgment of another man as he did upon that of Urquhart."

Marx and Urquhart's extensive correspondence has never been released to the public.

See "Lord Palmerston's Multicultural Human Zoo," *EIR*, April 15, 1994.

of New York, whose chairman, Leo Cherne, was on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, with offices at the White House. ARC's vice president, Roseann Klass, was director of Freedom House's Afghanistan Information Center.

Simultaneous to organizing the Afghan Relief Committee, Train organized a media salon, involving the Anti-Defamation League, among others, to churn out black propaganda to set the stage for the railroad prosecution and jailing of Lyndon LaRouche. Train's liaison to the White House on the "Get LaRouche" effort was Walter Raymond, who coordinated Train's Afghan support efforts in government under "Project Democracy."

Train's group paved the way for the stunning success of the visit of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Lord Bethell to the United States in 1981, to drum up U.S. official financial and logistical support for the Afghan mujahideen. Thatcher and Lord Bethell met over 60 congressmen and senators, and fostered the creation of the Committee for a Free Afghanistan, the de facto U.S. wing of Radio Free Kabul. The Committee for a Free Afghanistan, under orders from Bethell, also became a publicist for Jagjit Singh Chauhan, the Sikh secessionist, who was later implicated in the conspiracy that led to the October 1984 murder of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

In early 1982, London's entire Afghan war policy was incorporated into the United States government with National Security Directive 3, signed by President Ronald Reagan. By this directive, Vice President George Bush was placed in charge of all covert action programs globally. Throughout the 1980s, the Afghan war was the largest single program under this Bush chain of command. Through the same apparatus, Bush's Special Situation Group (SSG) and Crisis Pre-Planning Group (CPPG) ran the illegal Iran-Contra operation.

Official U.S. funding for the Afghan mujahideen was \$3 billion.

See "New Terror International Targets South Asia," *EIR*, Oct. 13, 1995; and *Derivative Assassination: Who Killed Indira Gandhi?* by the editors of *Executive Intelligence Review*, 1985.

The Golden Crescent

Despite the funding coming from the United States, Britain, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, China, and Iran for the Afghan war against the Soviet Union, the primary funding of that war came from drug production. From the early 1980s, according to statistics compiled by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), opium cultivation in Afghanistan shot up from approximately 225 tons per year in 1981, to 488 tons in 1983; 650 tons in 1986; 750 tons in 1988; and then back to levels between 5-600 tons, until 1994, when it shot up to 950 tons per year.

Opium production in Pakistan, the logistical staging ground for the Afghan war, similarly leaped from 52 tons a year in 1983, to as high as 205 tons in 1987 and 1988, although it has settled in the 155-160 ton range in the 1990s. By the late 1980s, according to DEA reports, Pakistan's annual revenue from heroin sales was \$8-10 billion, one-fourth of the country's Gross Domestic Product. Most of the opium was processed into heroin in laboratories along the border between Afghanistan and the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, where the bulk of Pakistani opium is also grown.

Throughout the late 1980s, the Golden Crescent was second only to the Golden Triangle in supplying the world's heroin market.

The return was billions of dollars funneled into the mujahideen operation. U.S. intelligence sources report that the Cali and Medellín drug cartels of Colombia channeled \$10-20 billion to the Afghan mujahideen—by far the largest "contribution."

The central bank for this enterprise was the notorious Bank of Credit and Commerce International. During the 1980s, BCCI's assets had grown from an initial capitalization in 1972 of \$2.5 million, to \$4 billion in 1980, to \$23 billion in 1991. BCCI not only functioned as the laundromat for the billions of dollars generated from the Golden Crescent; it was also the central bank for the British and U.S. arms flows to the mujahideen. When the Colombian Medellín Cartel put \$10 million into the Bush covert fund for the Afghan war, the money was conduited through a Swiss bank account under the name of Bruce Rappaport, a Mossad agent who is chairman of the NY-Intermaritime Bank of Geneva, which is interlinked with BCCI through Alfred Hartmann, vice president of the bank and manager of BCCI's Swiss banking station, Banque de Commerce et Placements.

The BCCI, in fact, served as the central bank for all of the covert operations George Bush was directing under National Security Directive 3, including Iran-Contra.

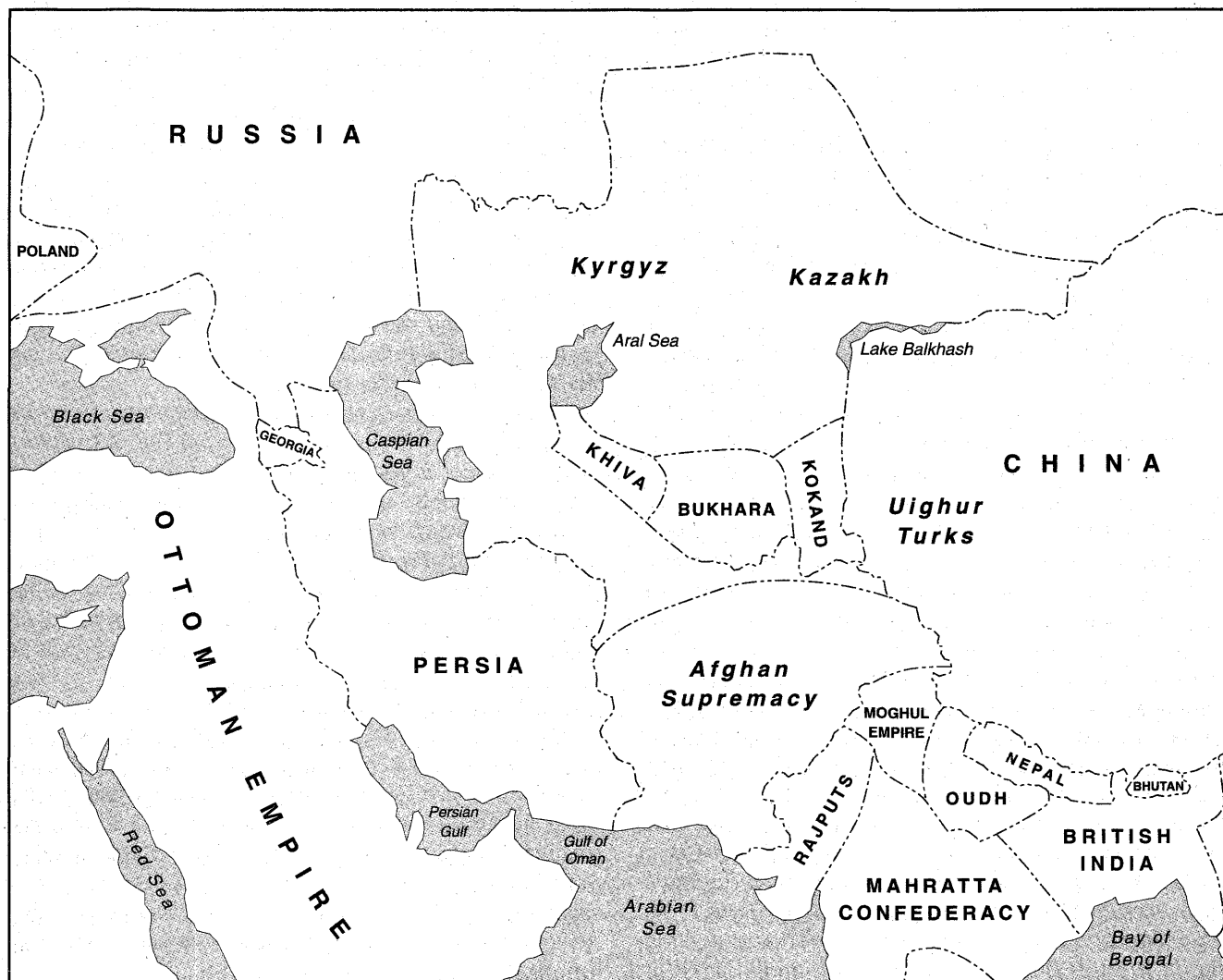
See "New Terror International Targets South Asia," *EIR*, Oct. 13, 1995; and *Dope, Inc.*, by the editors of *Executive Intelligence Review*, 1992.

Arming both sides of the Iran-Iraq war

British intelligence, with the complicity of the U.S. Carter administration, overthrew the Shah of Iran and placed Ayatollah Khomeini in power in 1979. In early 1980, British intelligence and the Carter administration encouraged Iraq to go to war with Iran. Throughout that 1980-88 war, which killed 1 million people—Iraqis and Iranians—Britain, and its allies in the United States such as Vice President George Bush, massively armed both sides.

On Nov. 9, 1992, British Trade Minister Alan Clark testi-

The Caucasus and Central Asia in 1763



Key to Map 3:

The Seven Years' War between the British and French empires ended in 1763, with Britain victorious. France was finished as a naval power. Britain was poised to expand its presence throughout Asia and elsewhere. In its aftermath, France abandoned India, where it had been the dominant European power a decade earlier. British-controlled Bengal became the base through which Britain took over the entire subcontinent. French domination of the Ottoman Empire began to come to

an end; British influence there was at a take-off point. China, while not yet under British control, was weak.

The vast region between Russia, China, and what became British India, was inhabited by Turkic nomads and Afghan tribes, and the three oasis khanates of Khiva, Bukhara, and Kokand. Russia was the only major, nearby land power. Further west, Russia was situated to take over the entire Caucasus region between the Black and Caspian seas. Control over these regions was later dubbed the "Great Game."

fied in court that it was official, if covert, government policy to arm both sides of the war. "The interests of the West are well served by Iran and Iraq fighting each other, the longer the better," he said. Clark had been called as a witness in a

case against Matrix Churchill, a weapons manufacturer charged with selling military equipment to Iraq beginning in 1986, in violation of a government ban. Government documents released to the court showed the firm's shipments had

been authorized by the Thatcher cabinet, including one shipment on July 27, 1990—one week before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The government was forced to drop its case.

A subsequent investigation by British Justice Minister Sir Richard Scott, released in five volumes in February 1996, confirmed that arming Iraq was Thatcher administration policy.

A U.S. federal trial of the Atlanta, Georgia branch of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), over financial irregularities, showed the bank had conduited over \$4 billion in “off the books” loans to Iraq (including U.S. Export-Import Bank credits) for arms purchases during the war. Simultaneously, according to Italian government investigators, BNL was extending loans to Iran for arms purchases.

British and U.S. arms sales to Khomeini’s Iran began in 1979. The British royal family’s Lonrho Ltd. was the primary firm overseeing these sales, working closely with the British intelligence proprietary Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). The Iranian National Oil Company’s purchasing office in London was a primary arms conduit.

The New York City-based Iranian banker Cyrus Hashemi, later murdered in Britain, who had worked under the control of former U.S. Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger, was also a conduit of arms to Iran.

Testimony and documents provided to the U.S. Congressional hearings in the aftermath of the 1986 “Iran-Contra affair,” demonstrated that Vice President Bush, and his aide, former CIA official Donald Gregg, oversaw the U.S. side of the supply, employing a network of private arms dealers, such as Gen. Richard Secord, who had all earlier worked for former Bush speechwriter and CIA clandestine operations hand Ted Shackley.

See *EIR Special Reports* “Project Democracy: The ‘Parallel Government’ Behind the Iran-Contra Affair” (April 1987); “American Leviathan” (April 1990); and “Treason in Washington: New Evidence on the ‘October Surprise’ ” (February 1992).

The Olof Palme and Uwe Barschel murders

In 1995, new revelations surfaced concerning the Oct. 11, 1987 suspicious death of Uwe Barschel, former governor of the German state of Schleswig-Holstein. Barschel had been found dead in his bathtub in a hotel in Geneva, and his death was at first categorized as a “suicide.” But accumulated evidence since his death shows that he was murdered.

In 1995, Barschel’s case was officially reopened by the German courts. Revealed was the fact that Barschel had been enmeshed in a high-level *joint East-West* weapons network that involved, on the one side, the East German weapons dealer and Assistant Foreign Trade Minister Alexander

Schalck-Golodkowski, and on the other the “Enterprise” directed by U.S. Vice President Bush in the Iran-Contra operations.

Schalck-Golodkowski controlled the trading company IMES, which had regular dealings with the Iran-Contra nexus, including Oliver North, Gen. Richard Secord, and former CIA agent Thomas Clines. The IMES operative, Arthur Wenzel, who negotiated directly with Oliver North, supposedly hanged himself in prison in 1991.

IMES had come under scrutiny when incriminating documents were seized in a Sept. 15, 1985 raid at the offices of the Swedish businessman Karl-Eric Schmitz in Malmö, Sweden, across the Baltic from Rostock, where IMES’s port facility was. The Malmö raid had been conducted as part of a crack-down by Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme on illegal arms trafficking from Sweden into Iran.

Palme’s actions against this arms network were unquestionably a factor in his assassination on Feb. 28, 1986—another murder as yet unsolved.

Shortly after Palme was eliminated, a diversionary operation was launched by Department X (Ten) of the Stasi to finger then-U.S. Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche as the person who was allegedly behind the assassination. Not coincidentally, Department X—which was responsible for political dirty tricks as well as disinformation—is also reported to have targeted Uwe Barschel.

In 1992, Herbert Brehmer, a former officer in the Stasi department, admitted his role in the weekly magazine of the Swedish Journalists’ Association, *Journalisten*, dated Aug. 20-26, 1992, and in two subsequent half-hour radio broadcasts on Aug. 29 and Sept. 1. “At my desk, I drew up the outlines of how the ELP [European Labor Party, the Swedish co-thinker party of LaRouche] theory [that the ELP killed Palme] would be conduited into the Swedish police investigation. . . . Nothing was really true, but it sounded well-informed and credible,” Brehmer recalls.

Up through the end of 1995, the Rostock port was sealed off by a military cordon.

One ship originating from IMES in Rostock in the spring of 1986, was the Danish freighter *Pia Vesta*, which was almost nabbed by the Peruvian coastal guard as it was carrying tons of Soviet trucks, AK-47 rifles, and anti-tank rockets. Investigation showed that the arms aboard the *Pia Vesta* had actually been destined for the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, and that the shipment had been financed and arranged in a three-way deal among the Syrian arms dealer Al-Kassar, Oliver North of Contragate fame, and the Libyan bank ARES in Madrid.

Earlier, in December 1985, the firm Bofors/Nobel Kemi, whose name turns up repeatedly in the Irangate affair, is known to have shipped arms and explosives from IMES in Rostock into Iran. In 1984, Swedish customs had started cracking down on smuggling from Sweden—leading it to probe the activities of Bofors/Nobel Kemi. Large amounts of contraband from the Bofors company were confiscated. In

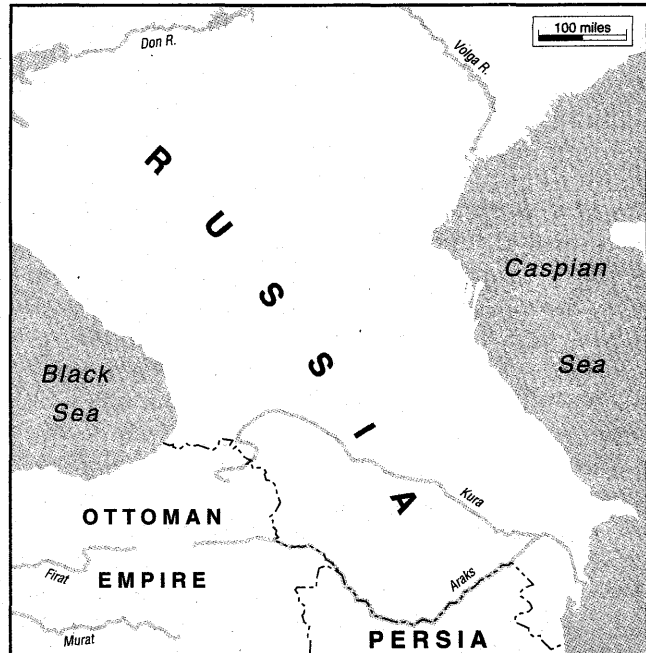
MAP 4

The Caucasus in 1763



MAP 6

The Caucasus in 1864



MAP 5

The Caucasus in 1830



Key to Maps 4-6:

Russia expanded into the Caucasus in the 16th century, but did not complete its subjugation of the region until the mid-19th century. This expansion was not a simple north-south movement, due to the difficulty of subduing the backward mountain tribes. Most of the region was then squabbling emirates dominated or part of the rival Ottoman and Persian empires, with Georgia having some degree of semi-independence. By 1763, Russia had taken over much of the northern flanks of the Caucasian mountain range, and the strategic Dar'yal Gorge, the passageway into Georgia and the entire Transcaucasus. Russia took over most of Georgia in 1783, annexing it in 1805-10. It crushed a mountain tribe revolt in the 1780s in the Caucasus.

Russia took control of the northeastern Black Sea coast after the 1787-91 Russian-Ottoman war, most of the Caspian Sea coast by 1796, formally annexing it in 1805. It dominated the Black Sea coast by the end of the Napoleonic wars, and following the 1828-29 Russian-Ottoman war, forced the Ottomans to cede all their Caucasian lands. Russia took formal possession of the entire region by 1830.

But two enclaves remained outside of Russian control: a Circassian tribal enclave on the Black Sea coast, and an eastern mountainous enclave inhabited by Dagestanis, Chechens, and Ingush. It was only in 1864, after 30 years of brutal guerrilla warfare, that Russia finally subdued these regions.

MAP 7

Central Asia in 1855



MAP 8

Central Asia in 1885



Key to Maps 7-8

Russia gained control over the northern region of what became Kazakhstan by 1855. The area was then inhabited by Kazakh and Kyrgyz nomads. It completed the conquest of what became Russian Central Asia in 1885.

As a result, the Russian Empire came into direct contact and conflict with the khanates of Khiva, Bukhara, and Kokand, for the first time. The khanates were based on a string of oasis cities on the Silk Route to China, in present day Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Because much of the area was desert wasteland, it

was necessary for Russia to establish forward-bases, before attempting to conquer the three states. Tashkent, the capital of Kokand, was finally seized in 1865. Russia conquered Bukhara in 1868, and Khiva in 1873. It did not completely conquer all of the region, however, until 1885.

Russia's advance led to negotiations with British India on turning Afghanistan into a buffer state between the two empires. An 1884 agreement between Russia and Britain secured a Russian-Afghan border, which has remained essentially the same since.

June 1985, customs officials confiscated 50 tons of explosives originating from Bofors, leading to the raid on Karl-Erik Schmitz's office in Malmö, in September the same year.

In January 1995, Lyndon LaRouche posed the following question, in a statement on the Barschel and Palme cases: "What are indisputably the common features of the death, and earlier murder attempt against former Schleswig-Holstein Minister-President Uwe Barschel, and the murder of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme, the preceding year? Two facts are outstanding: 1) Both had become a threat to the vital political and related personal interests of the international

weapons and drug-trafficking associated with (then) U.S. Vice President George Bush's 'Special Situation Group'; 2) both were targets of the notorious Abteilung X of the D.D.R.'s Innenministerium. I was also targetted by those same agencies during that same period.

"The arms and drug traffic was vast, and the trail of dead bodies ominously large. Palme and Barschel were two among the most prominent figures who died under those circumstances. This was especially so following the 1985 police search of the premises of a Malmö, Sweden arms-trafficking agent, Karl-Erik Schmitz. In that context, Olof Palme pre-

The Caucasus and Central Asia in 1923



Key to Map 9

The end of World War I resulted in a dramatic expansion of the British Empire, through its takeover of almost all of the Mideast, serving as a flank to British India, from which Britain controlled

the entire subcontinent and also Burma. The British-sponsored Russian revolution and civil war savagely reduced Russian military power. The Ottoman Empire was also finished, but the unexpected creation of the Turkish Republic by Mustapha Kemal Ataturk upset some of Britain's plans.

sented himself as a major threat to the continuation of the Sweden side of the international weapons-trafficking operations, threatening also to blow the cover from Bush's and North's secret dealings with D.D.R. Colonel Schalck-Golodkowski, and others. Palme died, with the diversionary cover-story provided by D.D.R. Abteilung X.

"Then, Barschel became a threat to the same concert of weapons-trafficking interests. An attempt to discredit him is followed by an attempt to kill him in an air crash, followed by his death in the Beau Rivage."

See *EIR Special Report*, "American Leviathan" (April 1990).

The Caucasus chessboard



Key to Map 10

The Caucasus area under Soviet rule had been divided into several ethnically delineated autonomous republics and regions within the Russian Federation, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. The borders of these autonomous republics and regions were often arbitrarily drawn.

Given the history of intense ethnic rivalry, and increasing poverty, it wasn't difficult to provoke wars.

Russia

Dagestan: 50,000 square kilometers; 1.8 million inhabitants. The republic is composed of a dozen tribes of Turkic and indigenous origin, with no one tribe predominating. The population is almost entirely organized into Sufi orders; clan structure remains especially strong. Dagestan is currently the main highway for mercenaries and supplies to Chechnya, via Azerbaijan. The Lezgi people, who live on both sides of the Azeri-

Dagestan border, have increasingly been organized by British intelligence into a Lezgi independence movement, making efforts to secure the border more difficult.

Chechnya: The Chechen-Ingush republic was 19,000 square kilometers in 1989, before the republic split in 1991. The Chechens were deported to Central Asia by Stalin in 1943, for alleged collaboration with the German Army, and only returned in the 1950s. The republic's population as of 1989 was 1.25 million, of whom 735,000 were Chechens and 165,000 Ingush. Since the war, some 400,000 people have fled. The Chechens are dominated by Sufi orders, and entirely organized into clans.

Ingushetia: 2,000 square kilometers. There were 215,000 Ingush in the former Chechen-Ingush republic in 1989. The Ingush formed their own autonomous republic (within Russia) in 1991, after the Chechens declared independence. During World War II, the Ingush were deported to Central Asia, while the Ossetians, who were not, were given the Prigorodny district that had been Ingush land. Competition over this district, which has never been returned, led to an Ingush-Ossete war in October 1992, and the flight of the 30,000 Ingush living there.

North Ossetia: 8,000 square kilometers; 630,000 inhabitants, of whom 60% were Ossetes, 30% Russians, and 10% Ingush, as of 1989. The Ossetes are the most russified population in the region, and are Orthodox Christians. Since the Georgian invasion of South Ossetia, virtually the entire Ossetian population of Georgia, approximately 100,000, fled to North Ossetia. South Ossetians are demanding reunification with North Ossetia.

Kabardo-Balkar: 12,500 square kilometers; 750,000 inhabitants, of whom 49% are Kabard, 32% Russian, and 11% Balkar, as of the 1989 census. The Kabards are an eastern branch of the Circassians, which includes the Adigai and Cherkess, and are cousins of the Abkhazians. The Balkars are a Turkic people, closely related to the Karachai. The Balkars were deported to Central Asia during World War II, while the Kabards were not. The Balkars have begun demanding the restoration of pre-deportation territorial districts that had been given to the Kabards. Foreign-based Circassian organizations are active among the Kabards.

Karachai-Cherkess: 14,000 square kilometers; 415,000 inhabitants, of whom 42% are Russian (mostly Cossacks), 32% Karachai, and 9% Cherkess, as of 1989. The Karachai are Turkic cousins of the neighboring Balkars; the Cherkess are Circassian cousins of the neighboring Kabards. The Karachai were deported to Central Asia in World War II and now claim full rehabilitation, including territory now held by the Cossacks. Some Karachai movements insist on a separate republic. The Cossacks, on the other hand, have reportedly advocated secession from the republic, to join the Kuban Cossacks of the neighboring Krasnodar district.

Adigai: 7,600 square kilometers; 430,000 inhabitants, of whom 68% are Russian and 22% Adigai. The Adigai are Circassian. The republic is an enclave with the Krasnodar Krai. De-

spite their tiny population within the republic, the Adigai are calling for self-determination.

Georgia

Georgia is 70,000 square kilometers in extent, and as of 1989, its population was 5.45 million. Georgians accounted for 70% of the total population. It had three autonomous areas: South Ossetia, Abkhazia, and Adjara. The Georgians and Abkhazians are indigenous peoples. The Ossetians are Iranian. Virtually all of these populations are Christian.

South Ossetia: 3,900 square kilometers. In 1989, its population was 99,000 inhabitants, of whom 66% were Ossetians and 29% Georgians. Today, almost the entire Ossetian population has fled to North Ossetia, Russia. In 1989, the South Ossetian Popular Front called for reunification with North Ossetia, triggering martial law and the 1991-92 Georgian-Ossetian war.

Abkhazia: 8,600 square kilometers. In 1989, its population was 540,000, of whom 44% were Georgian, 16% Russian, and 17% Abkhazians. Since the Georgian-Abkhazian war, the Georgian population has fled. The Abkhazians are part of the Circassian group also including the Adigai, Cherkess, and Kabardians.

Adjara: 1,100 square kilometers; 140,000 population: 80% Georgian, 10% Russian, and 5% Armenian.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is 87,000 square kilometers in extent. As of 1989, it had a population of 7 million, of whom 78% were Azeri, 8% Russian, and 8% Armenian (including the Armenian enclave of Karabakh). The Azeris are a Turkic Muslim population. Azerbaijan has huge petroleum deposits, especially in the Caspian Sea.

The British have skillfully used the various proposed, conflicting pipelines to transport this oil, as an added factor in provoking wars in the region. The entire region is desperately impoverished, and industry has collapsed. Oil extraction, transport, and refining are commonly considered to be the only means of short-term economic improvement.

Nagorno-Karabakh: 4,400 square kilometers. As of 1989, its population was 190,000, of whom 80% were Armenian and the rest Azeri. Since that time, the Azeri population has fled. Armenian agitation for the inclusion of Karabakh into Armenia in 1988 triggered ongoing Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict, resulting in each minority fleeing the other's state (with the exception of Karabakh). Armenian forces now occupy one-sixth of Azeri territory, including virtually all of Karabakh.

Armenia

Armenia is 30,000 square kilometers, with a population in 1989 of 3.3 million, of whom 90% were Armenian and 5% Azeri. The Armenians are Christian, mostly Armenian Orthodox, and indigenous to the region.

The Central Asian cauldron



Key to Map 11

Kazakhstan: 2,720,000 square kilometers; 16.5 million population as of 1989, of whom 40% were Kazakhs and 38% Russians, along with 950,000 Germans and 900,000 Ukrainians. The Russian population, which until recently was the largest ethnic group, primarily resides in the north, bordering Russia. An ethnic-based formal division of the country remains a possibility.

The Kazakhs were nomadic until the Soviet sedentization programs in the 1930s, and remain predominantly rural. The population is divided into three rival hordes, which further subdivided into tribes and clans. The population only became Islamic in the eighteenth century; Sufi orders predominate.

The country shares a long border with Xinjiang province, China, the home of some 8 million Uighur Turks. The province had been almost entirely Turkic until the 1949 Maoist revolution; subsequent Han colonization has made the Uighurs a minority. Over a half-million Uighurs now live in exile in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Kazakhstan has huge, untapped, oil and natural gas deposits, notably the Tengiz field near the Caspian Sea. Conflict over the exploitation of these deposits, and over alternative pipeline routes, is one of the primary means through which British interests are fueling war in the region. As of 1990, it had 90% of the Soviet Union's proven reserves of chrome, and 50% of its lead, tungsten, copper, and zinc. It produced 80% of the Soviet Union's phosphate, and 15% of its gold.

Kyrgyzstan: 200,000 square kilometers; 4.26 million population, of which 52% are Kyrgyz and 22% Russian, and there are 550,000 Uzbeks.

Only 7% of Kyrgyzstan is arable. Its population, until Soviet sedentization programs in the 1930s, was nomadic. The Kyrgyz remain rural; its cities are dominated by Russians and Uzbeks. The population is divided into two great tribal federations. The population only became Islamic in the eighteenth century, and is religiously dominated by the Sufi orders.

Kyrgyzstan is the primary base of efforts to raise revolt in neighboring Xinjiang, China. However, the greatest threat to the State, appears to be the opium and heroin trade, largely grown and processed in Afghanistan, but increasingly grown and processed in Kyrgyzstan. The Osh region bordering Uzbekistan is the center of the trade.

Kyrgyzstan's economy is primarily agricultural. It also has significant uranium deposits.

Tajikistan: 140,000 square kilometers; 5.1 million population as of 1989 census, of whom 62% were Tajiks and 24% Uzbeks, and there were 388,000 Russians.

The Tajiks are ethnically Iranian, and speak Farsi, the language of Iran. They are the only non-Turkic population in the region. But, like the Turkic population of the region, and unlike the Iranians, they are Sunni rather than Shiite. Unlike their nomadic neighbors, the Tajiks and Uzbeks have been rela-

tively highly urbanized. Historically, they were the merchants and other urban dwellers who ran the various oases on the Silk Route to China.

Nonetheless, Tajikistan was the poorest republic in the former Soviet Union, with an economy based on cotton production. Since independence, it has plunged into a clan-based civil war. Competition over drug trade routes from neighboring Afghanistan, and competition over massively increasing opium cultivation in Tajikistan itself, have fueled the civil war.

Tajikistan has been much affected by the arbitrary way it has been ethnically divided. The 1884 Anglo-Russian treaty, placed a large number of Tajiks in neighboring northern Afghanistan, which remains ethnically Tajik.

During the 1920s, the Soviets arbitrarily divided up the Central Asian region into five republics, creating new problems. The region had been administered as one entity under the czars. One major effect of the division was to pit Tajiks and Uzbeks against each other. Under the new division, only 65% of all Tajiks were included within Tajikistan. The Tajiks' main urban centers, and the center of their culture, Samarkand and Bukhara, were lost to Uzbekistan, as were the remaining 35% of the Tajik people. Bukhara is also the headquarters of the Naqshbandi Sufi order, which plays a dominant role in the Caucasus today.

Turkmenistan: 490,000 square kilometers; 3.525 million population, of which 72% are Turkmens and 9% Russian, and there are 320,000 Uzbeks. The Turkmen population is the most undeveloped of all the former Soviet Central Asian republics, and was, until Soviet sedentization programs, entirely nomadic. The Turkmen population is divided into 31 tribes.

The country is the site of huge untapped natural gas deposits now targeted for exploitation by competing foreign interests.

Uzbekistan: 450,000 square kilometers; 20 million population as of 1989, of which 71% are Uzbeks, 8% Russian, and 5% Tajik, and there are 800,000 Kazakhs.

The arbitrary Soviet border division of the region in the 1920s left many Uzbeks outside its borders, and over a quarter of the Tajik population within its borders. There are some 1.25 million Uzbeks in Tajikistan today, constituting 25% of Tajikistan's population. There are also over 300,000 Uzbeks in Turkmenistan, (9% of the population), and a half-million Uzbeks in Kyrgyzstan, (13% of the population). Moreover, there are at least 2 million Uzbeks in neighboring Afghanistan, who are under the effective rule of the ethnic Uzbek-Afghan warlord Gen. Rashid Dostum. Uzbekistan is the militarily strongest State in the region. It has also played a major role in the Tajik civil war, and has allowed Tajik rebel leaders to reside there.

A Greater Uzbek movement has surfaced in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, an ethnic Uzbek city on the border with Uzbekistan, that is a regional center of the opium trade.

Uzbekistan's economy has been dependent on cotton production, which has comprised 40% of its total agricultural production. It has large reserves of petroleum and natural gas.